

Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a) a stent having an exterior surface, an interior surface and side surfaces,

b) wherein at least a portion of the exterior surface is roughened to a predetermined extent for coating with a drug.

2. (Currently amended) The stent system according to claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein at least a portion of the interior surface ~~which~~ is roughened to a predetermined extent.

3. (Currently amended) The stent system according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces ~~which~~ is roughened to a predetermined extent.

4. (Currently amended) The stent system according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~outer~~ exterior surface and/or, the interior surface, and/or or the side surfaces are coated with ~~a drug, preferably~~ Tacrolimus.

5. (Currently amended) The stent system according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ stent comprises a stainless steel.

6. (Currently amended) The stent system according to A balloon catheter device for inserting a tubular stent, comprising a stent as defined in any of claims 1 to 5 claim 1 further comprising a balloon catheter for delivering the stent.

7. (Currently amended) A method for fabricating a stent for placement in a body lumen, the method comprising the following steps:

a) forming a tube which can be ~~employed~~ deployed from a contracted state to an expanded state, ~~said the~~ the stent having an exterior surface, an interior surface and side surfaces; ~~7~~

b) roughening of at least a portion of the exterior surface to a predetermined extent~~7~~ ; and

c) coating of said surface with a drug.

8. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim ~~7, wherein~~ further comprising forming the tube so that at least a portion of the interior surface is roughened to a predetermined extent.

9. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim ~~7, wherein~~ further comprising forming the tube so that at least a portion of the side surfaces is roughened to a predetermined extent.

10. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~claims~~ ~~7 or 8~~ claim ~~7, wherein the surface is roughened~~ further comprising roughening the surface to a predetermined extent by sandblasting.

11. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of~~ ~~claims 7 to 10~~ claim ~~7, including an additional step d) after step~~ ~~a) wherein~~ further comprising removing imperfections ~~such as sharp edges or burrs are removed~~ from the surface of the tube.

12. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of removing imperfections comprises removing ~~the imperfections are removed~~ by burring.

13. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim ~~11 or 12~~, wherein the step of removing imperfections comprises ~~removing the imperfections are removed~~ by electropolishing.

14. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of~~  
~~claims 7 to 13~~ claim 11, wherein the step of removing  
imperfections comprises removing the ~~imperfections are removed~~ by  
sandblasting.

15. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of~~  
~~claims 10 to 14~~ claim 14, wherein ~~sand is used for~~ the step of  
sandblasting uses sand.

16. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of~~  
~~claims 10 to 15~~ claim 14, wherein ~~glass beads are used for~~ the  
step of sandblasting uses glass beads.

17. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any~~  
~~of claims 10 to 16~~ claim 14, wherein ~~corundum is used for~~ the step  
of sandblasting uses corundum.

18. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any~~  
~~of claims 7 to 17~~ claim 7, wherein ~~the drug is~~ coating said  
surface comprises coating said surface with Tacrolimus.

19. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any of~~  
~~claims 7 to 18~~ claim 7, wherein ~~the drug is applied by spraying on~~  
~~the roughened~~ coating said surface comprises spraying the drug on  
said surface.

20. (Currently amended) A The method according to ~~any~~  
~~of claims 7 to 19~~ claim 7, wherein forming the tube is comprises  
forming the tube from annealed material.